

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An electrical connector is provided which can releasably engage a circuit card within a slot defined by the electrical connector. A camming mechanism is provided which includes a cover having a series of follower surfaces for cooperating with a corresponding series of camming surfaces and recesses associated with a pin holder. Longitudinal movement of the cover causes the cooperating surfaces to spread open card edge receiving portions of the slot, or to close down over the portions of the circuit card to be engaged. The electrical connector preferably has an opening in one end to allow a circuit card to enter the slot from the side, allowing circuit cards to be removed from or installed in a rack, frame or other chassis from the side.